



## Significant Roles and Challenges of Library Professionals in the Internet Era

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**Abstract-** Internet has enormous quantity of information with millions of web pages and thousands of news group. The present article discusses about the correlation of library professional and internet in today's life. Libraries are using the internet mostly for acquisition, cataloguing and reference functions. Library professionals can increase the uses of libraries by providing valuable information of library holdings through internet. The library professionals should keep themselves up to date every moment with the new developments and to meet the diversified queries of the new generations' users.

**Keywords:** Development, Internet, Reference, Web

### Introduction

In today's life, the internet become the most important source of communication and used by people in every walk of life such as business, education, defense medicine etc. In the library, the internet becomes most significant factor. In recent years, the environment of library is affected by the challenges of internet and the World Wide Web (www). The library professionals need to position themselves as leader not only in information field but also in the field of information technology. Library professionals will use internet to put their collection on the site and transfer of data from one institute to another. It has become a challenge for library professionals to prove the use and significance of internet in the field of library. Thus, it is necessary to make the internet an integral part of library's infrastructure by the library professional.

### Internet and its importance

Internet is a global network of interconnected computers that use the standard internet protocol suite to link several billion devices world wide. The internet has been in existence for the past 26 years. Internet is important mode of freely exchange information across the world by different networks. The internet grew out of the advanced research project agency wide area network established by the US department of defense in 1960 for collaboration in military research among business and government laboratories. The internet is a tool that connects millions of computers together allowing them to communicate with each other. Information is not stored on the internet, while it is stored on host computer. The internet is the carries excessive

information sources, documents and applications of the World Wide Web.

### Important features of internet are-

- Provide access to excessive amount of database.
- Point to point communication, instead of one to several broadcast communication.
- User across the global will connect information regardless of time and space factor.
- Internet and interactive community creation on a worldwide base.

### Role of Internet for Libraries

Today, Internet becomes a significant part of library. It added greater amount of knowledge to the library services. Internet is playing a significant role in transfer of information to another institute and responsible for changing the environment, view and services of library. Internet is useful for providing links to several library sites, for every documents files which can be accessed directly from any part of the world. Therefore, internet provides fast access to billions of information sources like books, reports, journal etc. Library professional play an important role in organizing the data and bridging the data gap.

### Changes occur in the library environment with the use of Internet are as follows:

- a) Library professional can changed the old library pattern/ environment to the modern library by adding nicely organized, easily accessible and well published documents and well maintained library.
- b) The libraries can start a system which gives complete information regarding services, products, documents etc.
- c) Internet can be used for online order of Books and Journals. E-mail can be used for transforming or sending information to the users.
- d) Ready reference service can be provided for doing early and fast work.

Thus internet has changed the environment and traditional culture of libraries and library professional by adding new techniques of delivering information and a vast information source.

**Significant roles of library professional with the advent of Internet:**

- a) Library professional acts as gateway to future and to the past by providing internet service in the library for collecting exchanging information.
- b) As a enabler/ trainer - library professional will have the responsibilities to train their staff and students in the future. The advent of new technology requires the development of skills and repetitive skills.
- c) As a manager role – Library is a system which consists of sub- system independent on each other. Every system needs a manager to manage or change the old system to new one.
- d) As organizers of networked recourses- Library professional takes a step in creating better organization and access to what is available on and through the internet.
- e) Information analysis- Library professionals will focus more on individual customized services and controlled access by remote users.
- f) Information broker- library professional are the mediator between the knowledge and user. They have to customize the information according to the users.
- g) IT experts- library professional play significant role as a information technically experts. They will guide the users using computer for retrieving the required information.
- h) Translator and Interpreter- Library professional acts as a translator and interpreter between the users and

computer. They have to modifying the users demand and make it accessible to software used to great maximum relevant information.

- i) Communicator– Library professional should have to be good communicators, instructive and precise while giving information.

**Conclusion**

The changing role of library professional should be a great concern to the profession due to advert and use of the internet in the library. Internet can affect the environment of library, both library and internet serve together for library work. A library has its own many advantages that are not provided by the internet. It is not very easy to find the required information on the internet nor is it easy to authenticate the sources. Where libraries are organized based on standards for access to information. Libraries preserve and provide access to millions of documents that predate the internet and probably may not be available online. Now library professional can use the internet for taking the catalogue of other institution, ordering books and journal from sellers and helps in establishing library homepage to maintain their collection and services on the site. Therefore library professional should have to accept these changes and new idea of services as ones which integrates the new technology with traditional ideas of services, quality, universal access and co operation.

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